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THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

Congressman Crain interviewed by the Gazette's Washington Representative—The Next House.

The Movement to Establish a Democratic G. A. R.—the Blockade at Fort as Price in May.

CRAIN INTERVIEWED. Special to the Gazette.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 28.—Congressman Crain speaks as follows concerning the organization of the next house: "Some men calling themselves Democrats consider the house is Republican and then go on to say that it will be better for the Democratic party if the house is Republican, which they hope will be the case. Such talk as that makes me tired. It is better for the Democratic party that the house be Republican, should we have fought for it? The idea that it would be better for the Democratic party."

Mr. Crain does not believe in laying the defeat of the party at the door of the president. "The president," said he, "sent us his tariff reform message on which the campaign was fought. When it reached the house that was the end of it. So far as President Cleveland was concerned we could have repudiated it, but we didn't. We endorsed it by the Mills bill, which in turn was endorsed by the St. Louis convention, and that fact alone made every Democrat in the house the champion of tariff reform, because we passed the Mills bill. The president was not responsible for the defeat of our party."

"Do you think that the South will have anything to fear from General Harrison's administration?"

"No. I believe General Harrison will be conservative, but it is not to be feared by certain members in his party that the South may be harassed by vicious legislation. The only thing the South has to fear is that the tariff reform and other measures in the party might become the ruling element and try to change the government of the election of Congressmen, but as yet no one knows what the policy of General Harrison will be."

SORROW FOR SWITZERLAND.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 28.—The secretary of state has sent the following telegram to the chancellor of the Swiss confederation at Bern:

By direction of the president, I make expressions of the sorrow felt throughout

the United States for the death of the honored head of the Swiss Republic.

THE DEMOCRATIC G. A. R. WASHINGTON, Nov. 28.—Referring to the published statement that Congressman Watson is believed to be at the head of the movement to organize a Democratic Grand Army of the Republic, he says he knows nothing of it except what he has read in the newspapers, and consequently is not at the head of or at any other part of the affair.

AN INSURE BLOCKADE. WASHINGTON, Nov. 28.—The secretary of state has received a telegram from the captain of the Haytian, stating in spite of the blockade declared by the provisional government at Port au Prince against the port several ships have entered, among others the German steamer Holstein, on the 22d inst., which was loaded with bags of coffee, and the German steamer Cremona, which entered on the 21st inst. and landed a cargo from Europe.

POSTAL RATE WITH SAN SALVADOR. WASHINGTON, Nov. 28.—The postmaster general and the vice consul from San Salvador have completed and signed a cartel convention between the two countries. Its terms are substantially the same as the rate with Mexico, and under them all merchandise and packages of less than eleven pounds in weight and of small dimensions will be admitted at the rate of 12 cents per pound in the country of origin, 4 cents per pound in the country of destination, making a total postage rate of 16 cents per pound.

LIQUOR SELLERS IN IOWA.

A Decision Regarding the Rights of Importers—A Test Case.

MARSHALLTOWN, Iowa, Nov. 25.—Judge Stevens sentenced George J. Bowman, convicted of selling liquor imported from Illinois, to pay \$1000 fine, the highest penalty. He held that the importer has no right to sell even in original packages. The case was a test one. This decision indicates that while importation may not be prohibited, the sale in original packages can. The matter will again be taken through the state supreme court and to the United States supreme court.

Dysentery in its worst forms will yield to the relief of Carter's Little Liver Pills, those of each after calling.

A Host of John McCullough.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Nov. 28.—A bronze bust of John McCullough, the dead tragedian, in the character of "Virginius" was unveiled at Mount Moriah cemetery this afternoon, in the presence of a distinguished company of members of the histrionic profession and friends of the actor.

NO END OF FUN.

How the Norwich, Conn., Boys Celebrate Thanksgiving—Turkey and Firing's.

They Gather Barrels, and, After the Turkey is Eaten, What a Thanksgiving Bonfire They Have.

QAST turkey and firing! Pshaw! Take a run round New England and ask all the boys you meet what they think of it. Whisper Thanksgiving in their ear and hear them howl. When you come to Norwich, Connecticut town—what will the boys tell you there?

"Roast turkey and 'fixin's" you will say, and the boys will look at you and grin. Then go up to them and say and whisper Thanksgiving—and then?

"Barrels!"

That's what it is. Barrels. Turkey first and barrels afterward.

As early as the first day of October the Norwich boys begin to make plans for Thanksgiving day, and this first and central fancy turns to barrels. From that time on to the festival no man's barrel is safe in Norwich.

An evil spirit seems to possess it. If a boy passes it in the soberest style in the world, if he so much as casts one coquettish sidelong glance that way, instantly the barrel begins to dance and rattle, and if no one is watching and the youngster rubs up against it, it gives a sudden hop, topples over on its side and scurries away. Of course the boy has to follow it to kick it straight when it gets away from its rumbling course and to keep it from prancing against pedestrians; and it invariably happens that the boy has to drive it into its lair before it will submit to government. There is little use of attempting to control a barrel after it is contracted. Thanksgiving fever, and the owner looks forward resignedly to its inevitable desertion from him. It looks very singular to a stranger coming into this town at this season of the year to see barrels rolling in every direction, and said citizens shipping nimbly and good-humoredly out of the way of the procession. He cannot account for the phenomenon.

Perhaps he is curious enough to try and find out. But the Norwich boy is up to snuff.

"Say sonny," the stranger asks, "what's up? Where are you going with all these barrels?"

And the boy replies, innocently: "Nothin' up, mister. The barrel don't belong to nobody nor nothin'. Found it loose up the street and run it in. Say, there, jimmy, give her a lift. Let her go, Gallagher!"

And with a whoop the whole company are off, kicking the whirling things swiftly into the darkness of a side street. These youngsters are systematic.

The work of collecting the booty is marked from the opening of the campaign to its finish by thorough discipline and organization and a hearty respect for the rights of each squad. First, all the boys in town array themselves into about a dozen independent brigades, and each force is duly empowered to look after its barrel in its own precinct, and an unwritten law that is at least 200 years old forbids the hands to trespass on territory not assigned to them. The largest squads are thus placed: One at Bean Hill, the ancestral home of President Lincoln, whose grand old tree is a barrel; one at Norwich Town, two at the Falls, two at the West Side, one at Jail Hill, in the center of the city, one at Laurel Hill, one at Greenville, and the rest are scattered about in the suburbs. Each band has a headquarters for its collection, called the "Home Base," and to each is assigned the hill on which the stacks are to be burned. The preliminary arrangements completed, the boys go to work with a will to get their barrels together.

Suppose they had to do this. How they would growl.

The custom of burning bonfires on Thanksgiving night is peculiar to this town, and its origin is lost in the obscurity of early colonial tradition. It was old when Benedict Arnold was a boy, and into the sport he entered with characteristic impetuosity and willingness. It is mentioned in the first chronicles of Norwich; and Miss Caulkins, a local historian, describes a fiery encounter between Benedict and a scoundrel constable who undertook to rob him of his barrel, in which Arnold stripped off his coat and dared the big man to fight. Many attempts have been made by local antiquarians to trace the custom to its source, but vainly; the only plausible explanation essays to connect it with a practice that prevailed in the hill towns of the Massachusetts colony of burning bush fires early in November to celebrate the miscarriage of the Guy Fawkes gunpowder plot. It was suspected that as Thanksgiving was appointed at that period at about November 5 the custom attached itself to Thanksgiving, after its original intent was lost, and that it was imported into this town by the first settlers a little after the middle of the seventeenth century.

But the Massachusetts rite differs importantly from the Norwich spirit in that brush was burned instead of barrel stacks. There is nothing like about brush fires, which were common among the ancient Britons and Scots, but a barrel fire is an elaborate and startling creation, a product of the juvenile genius of ancient Norwich.

Boys, think of it. Think of hunting, hunting for days together, for barrels. Think of the work, and it takes work. But then, it's great fun, you say.

So it is.

To make a lofty and successful barrel bonfire demands native tact, talent and gives place instantly to impetuous darkness. Barrel burning, though it is short-lived, is the undiluted essence of intoxicating sport.

The Norwich girls have a similar though tamer kind of sport with which to taper off the day's pleasures. As fashion forbids them to roll barrels and burn stacks, they collect spoils instead, which they string on wires, arranging them in fanciful designs, squares, circles, pyramids and names, saturate the creations with oil or turpentine, and meet at the house of the leader of the band and burn them. Some of the devices are very ingenious or beautiful, and they make a brilliant though unpretentious bonfire.

It's great, isn't it?



TEXAS SPECIALS.

Weekly Resume of the Gazette's Daily Report from All Over the State.

SAN ANTONIO, TEX., NOV. 28.

Y the action to-day of the employees in the Southern Pacific machine shops in this city it appears that trouble of a serious nature is threatened on the Atlantic system of the road, extending from New Orleans to El Paso. It will be remembered that for several days past the grievance committee of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers have been attempting to procure, through General Manager Hutchinson, the dismissal of General Master Mechanic J. J. Ryan, head-quarters at Houston, and all of his subordinates. At a meeting of the machine shop employees this afternoon, strong resolutions were adopted, and signed by 175 skilled laborers, protesting against the dismissal of Ryan and threatening a strike in the event of the successful consummation of the scheme of the engineers. The resolutions allege that the engineers are acting through pure malice and that their complaints are based on the most petty grievances. Telegrams have been received by the men assuring them of their hearty endorsement and support in their contemplated strike. Between 800 and 1,000 men will quit work in the shops if Ryan is dismissed, which will have the effect of seriously obstructing the traffic of the road for several days at least, as it will require sometime to fill the places with skilled laborers in the shops.

ARLINGTON, TEX., NOV. 24.—A sensation was created on our streets to-day when it became known that Frank Saunders, a young citizen of this place, had stolen a bale of cotton from Mr. J. W. Hammack last night and sold it in Fort Worth this morning. A man living near the Spruance & Co's gin heard cotton being loaded about 10 o'clock last night, and reported the fact this morning, and on investigation it was found that a bale was missing, and on telephoning to Fort Worth Mr. Hammack easily found his cotton, as it had been sold there early this morning, and from the description the thief was at once identified, and Marshal Gamage started on horseback at once.

QUEEN CITY, TEX., NOV. 24.—N. R. Roberts, an old farmer resident of this county, was struck and instantly killed by the north-bound passenger train No. 2 this evening. He was riding a mule on the track when seen by the engineer, but too late for the train to stop. The mule was killed. He leaves a large family to mourn his loss. He was intoxicated.

A Counterfeiter and His Mistress. OLEAN, N. Y., Nov. 28.—Alfred Wilder, a young man, was arrested yesterday for making and passing counterfeit nickels. A fourteen-year-old girl, the wife of Louis Lane of Oswego, Pa., was with him, she having run away from her husband with Wilder.

WILL LEAVE THE G. A. R.

Democratic Veterans to Form a Charitable and Non-Political Order. INDIANAPOLIS, IND., Nov. 27.—About 1200 Democratic veteran members of G. A. R. posts scattered over the state held a secret meeting in the capital building last night at which it was resolved that every Democratic member of the G. A. R. should abandon the order and all present pledged themselves to withdraw from their posts. Adjutant-General Kuntz presided. The name and constitution for a new order proposed by the Democratic veterans were adopted. The new order is to be charitable and non-political in character. Another meeting will be held to-night and one Wednesday. There will be a public mass meeting in the city hall for deserting G. A. R. to meet and the principles and objects of the new order will be laid before the public. General Kuntz said last evening that he had letters from men in eight states indicating that the movement is national. Among the letters received was one from J. A. Workman, secretary of the Democratic societies of Pennsylvania, promising that every Democratic soldier in Pennsylvania would leave the Grand Army of the Republic.

The president of the societies who ran against Beaver for governor is at the head of the movement in Pennsylvania. Mr. Kuntz says that few Indiana Democrats have attended the Grand Army meetings since the election, because the posts have been holding meetings ratifying the election of Harrison for Governor. It is pretty generally believed that Congressman Watson is at the head of the movement, but so far, he has no public statement. It is known that

A LETTER FROM HARRISON.

He is Surprised that the South Should Impute to Him Any Unfriendly Intent.

GREENVILLE, S. C., Nov. 27.—The Greenville Daily News to-day prints a letter received by its editor from General Harrison and published by its printer. It was written in reply to a letter urging that Southern commercial interests would be relieved from obstruction caused by doubts and fears regarding the southern policy of the coming administration if General Harrison would make some general assurance of his purpose to follow a conservative course toward the South, and is as follows:

INDIANAPOLIS, IND., Nov. 28.—A. B. Williams Esq., Greenville, S. C.: My DEAR SIR—Your letter of November 10 has been received. I am not ready to make any public utterances upon any public questions. Every day I am solicited by special correspondents of the press to speak upon this subject or that, but I have invariably declined, and to your appeal for some expression upon a question that interests you I must for the present make the same answer. I understand that you have yourself been satisfied with expressions made by me in my public utterances to visiting delegations during the campaign. When the surprise and disappointment which some of your people have felt at the result has passed away and they give some calm thought to the situation, I think they will be as much surprised as I am that they should in thought or speech impute to me unfriendliness toward the South. Policies in legislation advised by the Republican party I believe are wholesome for the whole country, and of those who in their hearts believe with us upon these questions would act with us, other questions that give you local concern would settle themselves. Very truly yours, BENJAMIN HARRISON.

AUSTIN.

The Texas Capitol All Night—Counting the Votes for Electors.

USTIN, TEX., Nov. 27.—Architect Miller, appointed by the governor and the state capitol board to examine the new \$1,000,000 granite state house, has finished his inspection of the copper roof and made a written report, which is now in the hands of Secretary Harrison. He examined the wood work to-day and pronounced it first rate with a few unimportant defects. Miller, who like Mr. Bell of Chicago now here representing the capitol syndicate, is an able and distinguished architect, and a reporter to-day that the copper roof is a good one and only needs some repairs. He said more fuss had been made about alleged defects in the building than was at all justified by the facts. Architect Miller said he was surprised, in view of the magnitude of the imposing structure, that there were no signs of settling, and so admirably had it been constructed that not a crack was visible anywhere in the massive granite walls. Architect Miller is not yet through inspecting, but it is evident he has as scientific man a high opinion of the building and its manner of construction. The governor, attorney-general and secretary of state were engaged all day counting the votes for electors, but the count was unfinished and may take another day to conclude it. The votes for state officers will be counted forty days from the date of election.

THE FATHER OF WATERS.

The Source of the Mississippi Has at Last Been Discovered.

ST. PAUL, MINN., Nov. 27.—A South Centre, Minn., special to the Pioneer Press says the true source of the Mississippi river has at last been discovered by a party living at that place. It is two small lakes, one of which they named Lake Josephine. The lakes are fed by many small creeks and their waters are emptied into the lake which was discovered by Captain Willard Gistler, who named it to be the source of the father of waters.

NOVEMBER BLIZZARD.

One of the Most Severe Storms of Snow and Wind Known for Years Raging in the Dominion.

An Innumerable Number of Vessels, Great and Small, Ground to Pieces in the Ice.

No Such Destruction of Property at the Atlantic Coast Watering Places Ever Before Known.

VESSELS FROZEN UP.

ONTARIO, Nov. 27.—One of the most severe storms of snow and wind known here for years broke over this province and Ontario Sunday evening and still continues. The wind at times blew as fast as 50 miles per hour. The streets and surrounding country are covered with snow drifts ten feet deep in places and the most severe cold prevails. The horse car lines here have stopped running. Forty-four people were picked up in the streets by the police on Sunday unable to make their way through the storm, being benumbed by the cold or bewildered by the winds.

The steamer Pomeranian, bound for Liverpool, made an attempt to reach Quebec Sunday. With the aid of tugboats she got to Batiscan, forty-four miles this side of Quebec, where she anchored for the night. Yesterday both the steamship and tug were frozen in solid. The Pomeranian will not get through this season. Her bows are broken by the ice, and the channel being so narrow, she will probably be forced ashore on the rocks and become a total loss.

At Quebec the gale is raging furiously, and the ferry boats that ply between Quebec and Pointe-Levis are caught in the ice which will crush them. The steamship Palmo was being struggling against the ice and ice in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, 200 miles below Quebec. At daylight yesterday she suddenly disappeared and has not been seen or reported since. There are fears that she has been lost. She has forty passengers, a crew of thirty and a general cargo. Point Mespriser signal station reports a brig caught in the ice powerless in the gale and flying signals of distress. Her name cannot be made out, nor can help reach her.

At Newcasle six schooners have been caught and crushed in the ice, and a similar fate has overtaken ten vessels at Chatham. Five vessels are caught opposite this city and will be crushed.

At Atlantic City.

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., Nov. 27.—The storm has abated and the sun is now shining brightly. A survey of the situation shows that no such destruction to property on this beach has been known since the incorporation of the city. Hundreds of property owners from Philadelphia and other localities have come down fearing their property would be swept away last night. The tide reached 10 feet, and the sea under the influence of a strong northwest wind was beaten down, but the result, especially in the lower portion of the city, is one of almost complete destruction. The work of the waves was quick and complete, and the individual losses are numerous.

A Collier Foundered.

COPASSETT, MASS., Nov. 27.—It is reported here that the Philadelphia steam collier "Allentown" has foundered off this port. There seems to be little doubt the steamer was sunk on some of the ledges directly outside this port.

On Lake Ontario.

OSWEGO, N. Y., Nov. 27.—A tow of lumber rafts and small boats are wrecked at Cape Vincent, on Lake Ontario. The storm is terrible, but most of the crew are believed to be saved.

Eight Vessels Wrecked.

LEWIS, DEL., Nov. 27.—Five barks and three schooners are reported at this point as having been wrecked on the coast.

LABOR AND POLITICS.

The New Organization to be Formed by Thomas Barry.

CHICAGO, ILL., NOV. 27.

HOMAS BARRY, ex-Knight of Labor, remained in Chicago to prepare the ground for the coming meeting of twenty-five or thirty delegates to the Knights of Labor general convention, which expects to convene in New York City and start an opposition organization. The meeting, it is understood, will issue a declaration of principles. This declaration, as far as at present solved, is to repeat all the charges so frequently made against Powderly's administration and will demand the eight-hour day, abolition of child labor, regulation of female labor, manufacturing and factory and store inspection. It will denounce all connection of the Knights of Labor with trades and particularly the intolerance of the Knights to members of the Federation of Labor. Unlike the Knights, the new organization will not demand membership federations. The declaration will charge that the Knights are too largely composed of Irish and Americans. The new organization will aim to be cosmopolitan. Individual local assemblies will be independent, acknowledge no general executive board, and pay no tribute to the general officers, but keep money at home for use in the struggle for the eight-hour day. The organization is to be secret in the same sense as the Knights of Labor, but it is intended that there shall be open meetings for the purpose of discussing political questions. Indeed, the chief distinction of the new organization is to be the active interest it will take in politics, and for this purpose the order will use either Democrats or Republicans as the locality or other circumstances may demand.

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